

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Department of Natural Resources
Room 314
July 8, 2003

Minutes

Member Present:

SOWARDS, Glade – Utah Energy Office
MILLIS, Eric – Division of Water Resources
KAPPE, Karl - Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey
WINTCH, Kenny – School and Institutional Trust Lands
CANNING, Michael – Division of Wildlife Resources
DALTON, Jamie – State Parks and Recreation
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights
TABEL, Dave – Utah Geological Survey
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, Pam – Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
GEORGESON, Michael – Division of Environmental Quality – Drinking Water
BAKER, Walt – Division of Environmental Quality - Water Quality
BLATTER, Therron – Division of Environmental Quality – Environmental Response
KEENE, Michael - Office of Technology and Science
PARKER, Randy – Department of Agriculture

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn – GOPB/DNR
PAYNE, Val – DNR/Administration
MATTHEWS, Linda – JBR Environmental
MAHONEY, Jenni - JBR Environmental

I. Approval of Minutes

Glade Sowards called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Michael Georgeson made a motion to approve the June 10, 2003 minutes with corrections submitted by Karl Kappe, Kimm Harty and Glade Sowards. Karl Kappe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Edits to the minutes included spelling, date and other changes. Also, there was a request to delete redundant text on page 4, last paragraph, discussing the Quitchupah field trip. This information is repeated on page 6, in the “Miscellaneous Section.”

II. Special Presentations/Discussion

Quitchupah Field Trip (Emery, Sevier Counties) – Linda Matthews/Jenni Mahoney

Linda Matthews, JBR Environmental, stated that the Quitchupah Creek Road Environmental Impact Statement was developed to consider rights-of-way alternatives to travel across lands administered by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Emery and Sevier counties, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and School Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). This project would provide an alternative route for coal transportation to the east from the SUFCO Mine. The project started in 1998-99 with an Environmental Assessment and scoping. A draft EIS was completed in November 2001. The preliminary final document was completed in May 2003 and is being review by the USFS and the BLM. The county road will run from the Sockville Mine and come out of Quitchupah drainage to SR-10. The purpose of the road project is to save some distance, time and energy from the existing route. Several issues have been identified and include cultural resources, rock art, erodible soils, threatened and endangered species, private land issues, winter deer and elk issues,

riparian issues, and potential traditional use impacts related to grazing and livestock trailing. Coal trucks and livestock/wildlife conflicts are the most critical issues. Three alternatives and a no action alternative have been developed. No preferred alternative has been selected. Several documents were left with the committee. Impaired access separate livestock from water access is an issue. Val Payne encouraged the group to take advantage of the Quitchupah field trip on August 5, 2003. The route for the trip will depend upon existing conditions.

III. Report from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Kimm Harty reported that the Utah Geological Survey is currently assisting a consultant working on trenching along the Wasatch Fault in a wildlife habitat area near Mapleton to develop a water diversion structure. The LDS church is planning to build over the diversion. They have all of the necessary permits.

Val Payne, Department of Natural Resources, is involved with the USFS and BLM with their resource management plans. The assistance from state agencies is appreciated.

Michael Georgeson, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Division of Drinking Water, reported that BLM and DEQ have been involved in obtaining water for Wendover, Utah. The water treatment plant will be supplying water.

Walt Baker, Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality, is a new member replacing Jay Pitkin who recently retired. Carolyn Wright has received the Panquitch Lake and Synderville Reservoir 401 certification.

Randy Parker, Department of Agriculture, announced that the state of Utah has been designated as an agricultural disaster area due to exceptional drought conditions. This provides access to low interest federal loans, and if congress passes any emergency legislation this will allow Utah to participate. This is a request for authorization to graze and use forage on farmlands involved in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) during this emergency situation. The Department of Agriculture is asking authority to use forage on these lands during this emergency situation. Approximately, 10 million pounds of low fat powdered dry milk, which has 31 percent protein, is being distributed for emergency livestock feeding programs in Utah (receiving 350 and 450 truck loads.) Cattle production numbers are down 40 percent from three years ago. Water availability, heat and forage conditions this year are having a huge impact on the cattle industry. This will have a large impact on agriculture in Utah.

Michael Canning, Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), mentioned that Anne Axel has managed the sensitive species database for DWR. She decided to continue her education. If you have any questions regarding sensitive species please contact Michael Canning until they hire a new information specialist.

Bill Schlotthauer, Division of Water Rights (DWRi), reported that the division is updating filings by checking into Colorado River System and old hydropower and geothermal filings that have never been approved. This will identify those that may be interested in pursuing their filing or determine if it should be withdrawn.

DWRi has recently signed a cooperative agreement with U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) for the Northern Utah Valley Study. DWR is signing another cooperative agreement with USGS for data collection in Cache Valley to rework the groundwater model to use for a management tool. Email Bill Schlotthauer if you have any suggestions regarding the groundwater model.

Most of the river commissioners have reported that spring runoff is over. Water diversions are being reduced by priority. The situation is not looking good.

Jamie Dalton, State Parks and Recreation (SPR), announced that the *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*, has been completed and has been approved by the U.S. Park Service. The plan is out for public review and comment. This plan will improve DWR's eligibility for Section 6, Land and Water Conservation monies.

Currently, SPR is working on an *Access Management Plan/Comprehensive Interpretive Plan for Antelope Island*, that focuses on access significant archeological sites requiring protection. Antelope Island has 28,000 acres and 26,000 acres are closed to general access. An interdisciplinary and intercommunity planning team will consider potential access opportunities. An initial draft will be completed in early September 2003.

State Parks and Recreation has been working to resolve some significant land trade issues at Wasatch Mountain State Park. Several inholdings need to be cleared up over the next several months. Willard Bay, Utah Lake and Uba Lake are losing access to ramps due to exceptional drought conditions.

There was an issue with the Jordan River Parkway, with the Overson property, at 118 South. Terry Green is in contact with Mark Bridel. The land trade involves some major development. This issue is in negotiation and efforts will focus on getting this approved. People have been digging basements in the floodplain.

IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

Bill Schlotthauer, DWRi, stated that BLM is starting scoping for Monticello and Moab resource management plans.

DWR Regional folks have stated that BLM is not sending projects through the Resource Development Coordinating Committee. They have relied on the RDCC screening process to monitor these projects.

SITLA is planning to transfer property in Winchester Hills, in Washington County. DEQ commented on the land transfer.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting will be held on August 12, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., at the Department of Natural Resources, in room 1060.